

ABSTRACT

Output device utilization on a network is optimized. Utilization information for each output device is tracked. The utilization information is tracked by periodically retrieving the utilization information and archiving the retrieved utilization information. The utilization information is selectively tracked from network print clients, network print servers and network output devices. The utilization information is analyzed for optimization opportunities. The utilization information is analyzed by selectively searching for underused and overused output devices. The utilization information is analyzed for optimization opportunities by applying rules to the utilization information. The rules are applied to the utilization information by selectively optimizing for lowest cost, highest quality, soonest output and output closest to an originated print client. The network is configured to exploit the optimization opportunities. The network is configured by selectively configuring network print clients, network print servers and network output devices.